

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings and to improve the language.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 have been amended to improve the language in what is believed to be a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Rejection Over TRANH et al.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by TRANH et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0001533 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a process and apparatus for optimizing the number of power outputs of an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit) type electronic control device that is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 1 of the application, which is reproduced below.

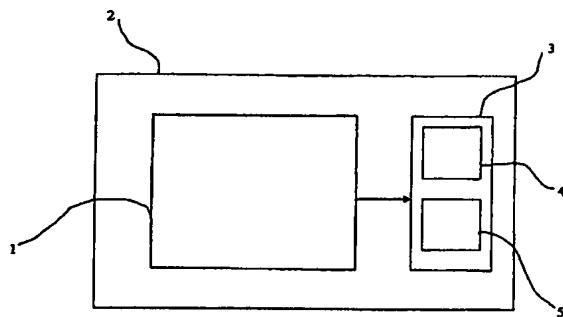


FIG.1

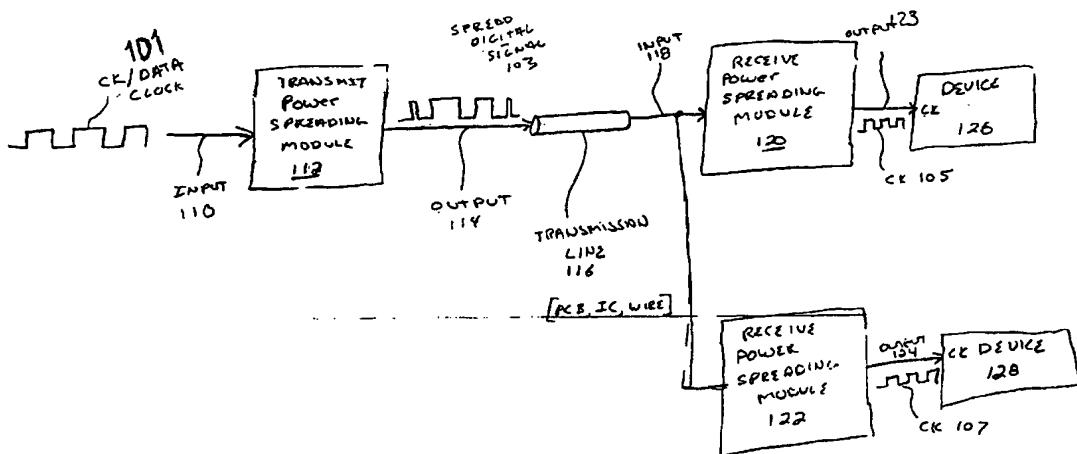
Figure 1 shows a microcontroller (1) and two power outputs (4,5) having geometrically identical connecting configurations, an integrated circuit of a first type comprising a first number of power outputs and an integrated circuit of a second type comprising a second number of power outputs (see independent claims 1 and 5).

That is, the present invention deals with a process and apparatus where, instead of numerous ASICs, only two types are selected (i.e. two types of ASICs having different amount of power outputs).

Those two types are packaged in the same way (i.e., having geometrically identical connecting configurations) in order to be able to easily mix them on the circuit board.

It is then possible to optimize the number of power outputs as a function of the application desired by the user and cover a wide range of applications with great flexibility and low cost.

TRANH et al. pertain to a method of reducing electromagnetic interference emissions. The Official Action refers to Figure 1 of TRANH et al., which is reproduced below.



The Official Action asserts that Figure 1 of TRANH et al. shows electronic control device (112) of the application specific integrated circuit type (120) mounted onto a printed circuit board. The Official Action asserts that Figure 1 of TRANH et al. also shows packages (126,128) having geometrically identical connecting configurations, an integrated circuit of a first type comprising a first number of power outputs and an integrated circuit of a second type comprising a second number of power outputs.

However, paragraph 0031 of TRANH et al. teaches that features (126,128) are devices that are driven by spreading modules (120,122).

The Official Action further asserts that features (120, 122) are "at least two circuits chosen from between said integrated circuit of the first type (120) and said integrated circuit of the second type (122)." However, paragraph 0031 of TRANH et al. states that "the receiver power spreading modules

120 and 122 will implement an ***identical*** power spreading function." The power spreading modules therefore cannot be of different types, such as is set forth in the present invention.

Additionally, the Official Action asserts that features (126,128) of TRANH et al. are "two packages" and features (120,122) are "said integrated circuit of the first type (120) and said integrated circuit of the second type (122)." However, Figure 1 of TRANH et al. clearly shows that power spreading modules (120,122) and devices (126,128) are separate devices linked by outputs (23,124).

In contrast, claims 1 and 5 of the present invention set forth that the integrated circuit of the first type and the integrated circuit of the second type are part of the packages (4,5).

TRANH et al. thus fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1 and 5 of the present invention. TRANH et al. therefore fail to anticipate claims 1 and 5 of the present invention. Claims depending upon claims 1 or 5 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-18

Claims 10-18 were presented for consideration on the merits in the preliminary amendment filed July 20, 2006. However, these claims have not been considered on the merits, as

evidenced by, e.g., lines 4 and 6 of the Office Action Summary. It is believed that claims 10-18 are instantly allowable due to their dependence on the allowable claims discussed above.

Favorable consideration of claims 10-18 on the merits is respectfully requested. Also, any Official Action touching on the merits of claims 10-18 would necessarily be non-final.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 20, 2006 and for making an initialed PTO-1449 Form of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejection is believed to be overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REG/lk